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Government might be pleased to establish a Lower Grade Secondary School at Adur at an early date.

Mr. Kumaran Kochu Padmanabhan (Member, Shertallai Taluk) said that Alleppey was 14 miles from Shertallai and that, owing to the absence of an English School, the people of the taluk were still backward in point of education. He therefore requested that an English School might be opened at a central place between Shertallai and Alleppey.

Mr. M. Sivathanu Pillai (Member, Agasteeswaram Taluk) said that Narayananputhur was situated in the centre of a large number of villages of the Agasteeswaram taluk, and owing to the want of a Secondary School at the place, the children of these villages had to walk from 4 to 10 miles in order to attend the Kottar High School. The people of the locality were very eager to have the benefits of English education for their children. He therefore prayed that the Government might be pleased to open a Lower Grade Secondary School at Narayananputhur and thus confer a lasting benefit on the loyal subjects of the *pakuthies* of Agasteeswaram, Parakai, Suchindram and Therur.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

57. Raising the standard of the Kottarakara Lower Grade Secondary School.

Mr. C. P. Kochuhunju Pillai (Member, Kottarakara Taluk) said that the prayer of the people of the taluk was that the Lower Grade Secondary School at Kottarakara should be raised to the Higher Grade. But, as he learnt from the Gazette that the Government had it in contemplation, he did not want to speak at length on the subject.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

58. Improvement of education among the Mahomedan community in the State.

Mr. Shaik Mahomed Hamidhani Thangal (Member, Nominated) thanked the Government for their kind solicitude for the welfare of the Mahomedans in the State and regretted that the number of Mahomedans who had received English education was infinitesimally small. The Member doubted whether even one per cent of the children of the school-going age attended the Vernacular Schools. The community had yet to learn what female education was. In education and enlightenment, the community occupied the lowest rung of the ladder, though history bore evidence to the fact that the community had once occupied a pre-eminent position politically, socially and educationally. There was no prospect of elevation

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and advancement of the community, so long as it continued in its present notoriously backward condition in point of education. In the absence of men of education and enlightenment to lead, the community had to look to the Government for help and guidance at the initial stage, and the Member had no doubt that the Government would do all that was needful in the matter. He said that the community were deeply grateful to the Government, and as proofs of the interest which the Government took in the welfare of the community, he mentioned the concessional rates of school fees allowed to Mahomedan pupils, their entertainment in the Government service in spite of their backwardness, the Government nominations to represent them in the Popular Assembly and the grant of a free site for the proposed Mahomedan School at Alwaye. He also said that the erroneous impression brought about by interested Mullahs, that English education was inconsistent with the religion of Islam and that female education was forbidden, was fortunately fast dying out, and the conviction was daily growing that the study of the language of the country and of the rulers was enjoined by their religion as forming a necessary part of their education. The way was thus made clear for action. He therefore made the following suggestions for the educational advancement of the community:—

(1) That special Mahomedan Schools be opened for the present in large towns and also in other Mahomedan centres in rural parts.

(2) That a special Mahomedan Inspector be appointed to supervise these schools and to move about lecturing to the people on the advantages, the necessity and the importance of educating their children and thus create an enlightened public opinion among the people in favour of education.

(3) That, considering the extreme immobility, apathy and backwardness of the community in respect of education, an order be passed exempting, from the payment of fees, intelligent and deserving Mahomedan pupils who prosecute their studies up to the B. A. Examination and granting other concessions.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

59. Sale of approved text-books by the Government.

Mr. Kanakku Raman Kesavan (Member, Kartigapalli Taluk) said that at present the text-books approved by the Text-Book Committee and used in schools were being sold by the authors at high prices. Poor students were in consequence put to much inconvenience and unnecessary

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